

***With 18 of 21 clubs voting the number  
necessary to pass any proposal is:***

$$***18 \times 0.667 = 12.006***$$

*proposal R-1*

**9 Pass 9 Fail FAIL**

**Section 1.0 Requirements; subsection 1.2. Whippets Eligible to Participate in the WRA's Racing Program; Item 3**

**Section 3.0 Requirements**

***Original Wording:***

3. Any disqualification covered in the AKC Whippet Standard of the Breed, or any AKC disqualification, applies to any Whippet racing in a WRA meet.

***Proposed Wording:***

3. Any disqualification covered in the AKC Whippet Standard of the Breed, or any AKC disqualification with exception of the monorchid/cryptorchid disqualification, applies to any Whippet racing in a WRA meet.

proposal R-1-a

# **IGNORE THIS PROPOSAL** *It was included by mistake. The Secretary takes full responsibility for the error.*

## **Section 1.0 Requirements; subsection 1.2. Whippets Eligible to Participate in the WRA's Racing Program; Item 8**

### **Original Wording:**

- 8 Whippets with the following AKC or WRA disqualifications may be raced only when they have been spayed or neutered.
- ? Blue or China Colored Eyes.
  - ? Undershot Jaw.
  - ? Overshot Jaw [One-Quarter (1/4) inch or more.]
  - ? Deafness.

A veterinarian's certificate, signed and dated, must be presented to the inspection committee each time the Whippet is inspected for a race meet. Any Whippet which is found to have raced at any WRA race meet under false neutering papers will automatically have all titles and points toward all titles revoked. Any WRCh or WRChX points will be assigned to the next Whippet in line for the points. The number of WRCh and WRChX points for the race meet will be unaffected by a Whippets revocation.

### **Proposed Wording:**

Delete the section in its entirety.

~~8 Whippets with the following AKC or WRA disqualifications may be  
raced only when they have been spayed or neutered.~~

- ~~? Blue or China Colored Eyes.~~
- ~~? Undershot Jaw.~~
- ~~? Overshot Jaw [One-Quarter (1/4) inch or more.]~~
- ~~? Deafness.~~

~~A veterinarian's certificate, signed and dated, must be presented to the inspection committee each time the Whippet is inspected for a race meet. Any Whippet which is found to have raced at any WRA race meet under false neutering papers will automatically have all titles and points toward all titles revoked. Any WRCh or WRChX points will be assigned to the next Whippet in line for the points. The number of WRCh and WRChX points for the race meet will be unaffected by a Whippets revocation.~~

**proposal R-1-b**

**9 Pass 9 Fail FAIL**

Section 3.0 Racing Officials and Duties; subsection 3.2 Inspection Committee; subsection 3.2.1 Disqualifications.

**Original Wording:**

If the Inspection Committee finds a Whippet which measures over or under the allowed size limit, or possesses a disqualification listed below, that particular Whippet will not be allowed to run at that race meet. All Whippets racing in WRA meets must be inspected at each meeting, except in cases where two race meets are held on the same weekend, by the same club and at the same location. In such instances, the inspection committee may choose to inspect for disqualifications only those Whippets who did not compete in the first day's meet. All Whippets must be inspected each day for soundness and bitches checked for evidence of being in season.

Disqualifications included in the AKC Standard for the Breed are:

BLUE OR CHINA-COLORED EYES  
UNDERSHOT JAW  
OVERSHOT JAW (ONE QUARTER (1/4) INCH OR MORE  
A WHIPPET MORE THAN ONE-HALF (1/2) INCH ABOVE OR BELOW THE  
MEASUREMENTS SPECIFIED UNDER "SIZE".

Those disqualifications covered by the Whippet Racing Association program are:

MONORCHIDS (A male with only one visible/palpable testicle normally descended into the scrotum.)  
CRYPTORCHIDS (A male with n visible/palpable testicles normally descended into the scrotum.)  
MONORCHIDS (A MALE WITH ONLY ONE VISIBLE/PALPABLE TESTICLE).  
CRYPTORCHIDS (A MALE WITH NO VISIBLE/PALPABLE TESTICLES).

WHIPPET BITCHES IN HEAT OR SEASON  
A WHIPPET THAT SHOWS POSITIVE EVIDENCE OF SICKNESS OR ABNORMALITY (ie, LAMENESS) THAT COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE WHIPPET OR TO OTHER WHIPPET RACERS.  
THE USE OF ANY DRUG, STIMULANT OR NARCOTIC

**Proposed Wording:**

If the Inspection Committee finds a Whippet which measures over or under the allowed size limit, or possesses a disqualification listed below, that particular Whippet will not be allowed to run at that race meet. All Whippets racing in WRA meets must be inspected at each meeting, except in cases where two race meets are held on the same weekend, by the same club and at the same location. In such instances, the inspection committee may choose to inspect for disqualifications only those Whippets who did not compete in the first day's meet. All Whippets must be inspected each day for soundness and bitches checked for evidence of being in season.

Disqualifications included in the AKC Standard for the Breed are:

BLUE OR CHINA-COLORED EYES  
UNDERSHOT JAW  
OVERSHOT JAW (ONE QUARTER (1/4) INCH OR MORE  
A WHIPPET MORE THAN ONE-HALF (1/2) INCH ABOVE OR BELOW THE  
MEASUREMENTS SPECIFIED UNDER "SIZE".

~~[Those disqualifications covered by the Whippet Racing Association program are:](#)~~

~~MONORCHIDS (A male with only one visible/palpable testicle normally descended into the scrotum.)~~

~~CRYPTORCHIDS (A male with n visible/palpable testicles normally descended into the scrotum.)~~

~~MONORCHIDS (A MALE WITH ONLY ONE VISIBLE/PALPABLE TESTICLE).~~

~~CRYPTORCHIDS (A MALE WITH NO VISIBLE/PALPABLE TESTICLES).~~

WHIPPET BITCHES IN HEAT OR SEASON

A WHIPPET THAT SHOWS POSITIVE EVIDENCE OF SICKNESS OR ABNORMALITY (ie, LAMENESS) THAT COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE WHIPPET OR TO OTHER WHIPPET RACERS.

THE USE OF ANY DRUG, STIMULANT OR NARCOTIC

*proposal R-1-c*

**9 Pass 9 Fail FAIL**

Section 3.0 Racing Officials and Duties; subsection 3.2 Inspection Committee; subsection 3.2.1 Disqualifications; subsection 3.2.1.1.

**Original Wording:**

3.2.1.1 Puppies that are monorchids or cryptorchids should be allowed to run as puppies. When entered as a FTE adult they must be neutered

**Proposed Wording:**

Delete this section in its entirety.

~~3.2.1.1 Puppies that are monorchids or cryptorchids should be allowed to run as puppies. When entered as a FTE adult they must be neutered~~

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**Rationale: For R-1, R-1-a, R-1-b, and R-1-c.**

- **In the decades since this AKC disqualification was put into place, the incidence of monorchidism/cryptorchidism has not produced any noticeable reduction in the occurrence of retained testicles.** Moreover, nothing in this disqualification looks to disallow racing/breeding of littermates, dams, or sires of monorchids/cryptorchids that may just as likely be carriers of this defect and to produce get that are affected as the monorchid/cryptorchid individual himself.

If the majority of the population that probably carries this trait is allowed to compete intact, does it make sense to require sterilization of the smallest percentage of the carrier population (those that display the trait), despite the fact that it is unlikely that a monorchid male will ever be used for breeding?

- **There has been no rush to use monorchid dogs as sires, despite the fact that monorchid/cryptorchid males are permitted to run in NAWRA, NOTRA and ASFA.**
- **Monorchidism, as a defect, is not a health threat to the dog** as the retained testicle can be easily removed. There is probable benefit to allowing monorchid dogs to retain their normal body parts in order to achieve full maturation, structure and competitive potential and avoid the spindly, weedy (and sometimes oversized) condition that is frequently associated with early neutering.
- **Allowing monorchid/cryptorchid dogs to race intact in the WRA need not disqualify their sires/dams from using the title toward the ROM/ROMX program.** The AWC could easily move the WRCH and WRCHX to the conditional category, requiring proof only that the dog was inspected at some other venue that checks for all AKC DQs. This mechanism was put into place in the AWC ROM program last year and is how titles from NAWRA and NOTRA are qualified.

- **Aligning the WRA with NAWRA on this issue could remove one of the barriers to these two organizations joining forces.** This has the potential be a good thing, allowing these two organizations to work synergistically, and eventually cutting the manpower required to maintain a healthy sprint racing organization in half.
- **The requirement for neutering does not eliminate the potential for breeding of monorchid animals.** The technology for semen collection and artificial insemination has become reliable and is in commonplace use. Neutering these dogs simply won't prevent their use in breeding programs, given the available technology. It's time we conceded this point.
- **Recognizing that WRA's philosophy is one of "breed improvement", it seems prudent to retain only those requirements that truly result in breed improvement.** In the many decades that this disqualification has been in place, there has been no improvement to the breed to be credited to this requirement for neutering, either through the show ring or through the WRA race program.

**proposal R-2**

**1 Pass 17 Fail FAIL**

SECTION 1.0 PURPOSE AND ELIGIBILITY; subsection 1.2 Whippets Eligible to Participate in the WRA's Racing Program; paragraph 3.

Original Wording:

- 3 Prior to the first WRA Practice or official WRA Meet in which a Whippet will participate, a copy of the AKC or CKC registration and \$2.00 registration fee should be sent to the Registrar/Recorder. However, the copy of the Whippet's registration may be sent with the race results by the Club Secretary. A litter registration number will be accepted on Whippet racers 8 to 14 months of age for entries in the puppy class only, but at the adult level, 14 months, an individual registration number is required.

Proposed Wording:

Add Paragraph 3-A:

A certification will be required prior to whippet running as an FTE in either the puppy or adult program. The certification can only be obtained by the subject whippet running with at least 2 other whippets from a closed box for a distance of no less than 150 yards. The other 2 whippets can not be members of the certifying dogs household. A certification will have to be signed by the following witnesses, stating that the subject whippet ran cleanly, by their observation. The signatures will be from 3 foul judges, lure operator, and meet race secretary. There will be a required total of 2 separate certification runs, that can not be run on the same calendar day. The certifications can be obtained in 1 weekend, if there are official back to back sanctioned WRA meets.

The need for the certification can be waived if the FTE has run successfully, with no foul, in 1 (min 3 program) complete NAWRA, NOTRA, or CWA race meet, as evidenced by official records from that organization provided at time of roll call or earlier to the dogs 1st WRA race meet. The race secretary and handler will be responsible for receipt of required paperwork.

If the FTE entry is a puppy, and does not have the required certificate and there are no other puppies entered, the subject puppy will not be allowed to run.

**proposal R-3**

**13 Pass 5 Fail PASS**

Section 2.0 Requirements; subsection 2.7 National Race Meet; subsection 2.7.1 Seniors and Legends Classes; Last Paragraph.

***Original Wording:***

These classes will run once, unless there are over 6 entries. If there are over 6 dogs entered in the class, then they will run twice, and the winner of the second race shall be declared the winner of the class. Entrants in these classes will NOT count toward the number of adult starters, for the purpose of awarding Championship and National Points.

***Proposed Wording:***

Add the following.

**It is not necessary to measure dogs running only in Legends or Seniors.**

Rationale: Legends and Seniors are not meant to be competitive races, they honor and showcase our older dogs, and let them feel as though they are taking part. There is no reason why these dogs, who don't count toward points, should be measured.

**proposal R-4**

**16 Pass 2 Fail PASS**

Section 2.0 Requirements; subsection 2.8 Official Entry Blank for Approved WRA Race Meets.

**Original Wording:**

**2.9 Official Entry Blank for Approved WRA Race Meets**

*The recommended closing entry dates for clubs and groups sponsoring WRA meets should be 7 to 10 days prior to the approved race meet.*

**Proposed Wording:**

The recommended closing entry dates for clubs and groups sponsoring WRA meets ~~should be 7 to 10 days prior to the approved race meet~~ which require hard copy entry forms to be sent, should be 10 – 14 days prior to the approved race meet. All others, which are taking entries by electronic methods, should be 3 – 5 days prior to the approved meet.

**Rationale:**

The only race meets being held now that require you to fill out and mail in an entry form are National Meets or one held in conjunction with the AWC National. With the age of electronic communication, closing dates have routinely become the Wednesday or Thursday prior to the meet. This is a housekeeping change to reflect the way things are done now.

**proposal R-5**

**18 Pass 0 Fail PASS**

SECTION 3.0 RACING OFFICIALS AND DUTIES; subsection 3.2  
Inspection Committee; subsection 3.2.2.Measuring;  
subsection 3.2.2.3 Procedure

Original wording:

Each Whippet handler is entitled to two (2) measuring procedures, of three (3) minutes each. In the event a Whippet does not measure properly on the first attempt, the handler may return for a second measurement before the Committee closes. To eliminate wasted time with this procedure, the owner and/or handler is encouraged to train the Whippet at home, so all become familiar with the exercise! The Inspection Committee will not speak other than answering questions from the handler, or to request that the handler properly position or handle the dog for inspection. The Committee will not touch the Whippet on the board except to perform individual inspection duties. Any Whippet whose shoulder touches the crossbar of the wicket and either, or both legs of the wicket fail to touch the surface on which the Whippet is standing will, at the second measurement, be disqualified for that particular WRA meet. The entry fee will not be returned.

Any Whippet that has the crossbar of the wicket touch the shoulder and the legs of the wicket still touch the surface on which the Whippet is standing is qualified to run in that particular meet

Proposed wording:

Each Whippet Whippet Handler is entitled to two (2) measuring procedures, of three (3) minutes each. In the event a Whippet does not measure properly on the first attempt, the handler may return whippet may be brought back for a second measurement before the Committee closes. To eliminate wasted time with this procedure, the owner and/or handler is encouraged to train the Whippet at home, so all become familiar with the exercise! The Inspection Committee will not speak other than answering questions from the handler, or to request that the handler properly position or handle the dog for inspection. The Committee will not touch the Whippet on the board except to perform individual inspection duties.

Any Whippet whose shoulder touches the crossbar of the wicket and either, or both legs of the wicket fail to touch the surface on which the Whippet is standing will, at the second measurement, be disqualified for that particular WRA meet. The entry fee will not be returned.

Any Whippet that has the crossbar of the wicket touch the shoulder and the legs of the wicket still touch the surface on which the Whippet is standing is qualified to run in that particular meet

Rationale: Housekeeping, to clarify a rule in which one word makes all the difference. The way the rule is written limits each handler to two measuring attempts, when it is intended to limit the whippet to two measuring attempts.

**proposal R-6**

**14 Pass 4 Fail PASS**

SECTION 3.0 RACING OFFICIALS AND DUTIES; subsection 3.4 Finish Line (Placement) Judges; subsection 3.4.2.2 paragraph 1b.

Original Wording:

Mounting and Positioning: The camera will be on a firm base at least 7 feet (84 inches) above the ground and on the side of the track which gets the best light to see the dogs, the idea is that no dog is hidden behind any other dog, with higher mounting preferable. A camera on each side of the track is preferable to one mounted on one side of the track, to catch dogs not seen by the other camera. Ideally the camera would be mounted over the center of the track with enough height to see the full track width. The camera shall be placed on the finish line and pointed across the track with a clear view of the full width of the finish line and track. The camera will not follow the dogs down the track. It will allow the dogs to run through its field of view. The camera will have an unimpeded view of the finish.

Proposed Wording:

Mounting and Positioning: The camera will be on a firm base at least ~~7 feet (84 inches)~~ 5 feet (60 inches) above the ground and on the side of the track which gets the best light to see the dogs, the idea is that no dog is hidden behind any other dog, with higher mounting preferable. A camera on each side of the track is preferable to one mounted on one side of the track, to catch dogs not seen by the other camera. Ideally the camera would be mounted over the center of the track with enough height to see the full track width. The camera shall be placed on the finish line and pointed across the track with a clear view of the full width of the finish line and track. The camera will not follow the dogs down the track. It will allow the dogs to run through its field of view. The camera will have an unimpeded view of the finish.

**Rationale:** When this was written it was not realized that camera tripods only go to 5 ft. making camera placement much harder than necessary. After reports from clubs which have experimented at 5ft and 7ft they have reported that 5ft is adequate, though 7 is better. Though an occasional dog will get blocked at 5ft there is enough information to determine what dog it is and it's placement.

**proposal R-7**

**6 Pass 12 Fail FAIL**

SECTION 3.0 RACING OFFICIALS AND DUTIES; subsection 3.4 Finish Line (Placement) Judge; subsection 3.4.2.2

Original Wording:

3.4.2.2 Once the final placements are determined, under no circumstances should these placements be reversed.

Proposal: To add a 3.4.2.3

Where the equipment and expertise is available, clubs may use video finishes in place of Human judges. Clubs must inform exhibitors in advance of the intent that the video finish will be used and must be able to provide copies of the video files/tapes in a readable format of any race requested by the WRA

Video MUST be watched by at least two (2) people qualified to line judge.

Rationale: The technology is available "off the shelf and has been proven to work. The WRA rules require eleven people to run a high point race, not including handlers and secretaries. For whatever reason, that's almost as many folks are in attendance in many small meets.

In the last year the use of video finish with JRRWA has avoided injustices in major races on at least four occasions. The truth is more important than tradition and we, the clubs, should avail ourselves of this capability.

**proposal R-8**

**8 Pass 10 Fail FAIL**

SECTION 4.0 DISQUALIFICATIONS AND DISMISSALS; subsection  
4.2 Puppy Disqualifications

Original Wording

Any puppy racer (8 to 14 months) disqualified for "Intentional Interference" twice, while running as a puppy, will not be allowed to race further within twelve (12) months of the second foul, either as a puppy or an adult.

Proposed Wording

Any puppy racer (8 to 14 months) disqualified for "Intentional Interference" twice, while running as a puppy, will not be allowed to race further ~~within twelve (12) months of the second foul, either as a puppy or an adult~~ as a puppy.

When the puppy/dog reaches 14 months of age, fouls received as a puppy will be dropped from his/her record. No fouls received while racing as a puppy will be applicable to an adult racer's record.

Rationale: Puppy races are offered as training races, and puppies are there for experience. Puppy races are learning experiences, and fouls given in puppy races have little relevance when a dog begins his/her adult racing career.

**proposal R-9**

**10 Pass 9 Fail FAIL**

**Section 4.6 Protest Procedures**

Original wording:

Any person racing a ..... Suspension and Expulsion as stated in the Bylaws.

**If the protest involves any official (for example, Race Secretary at the meet in question, RRC of the Region where the meet took place) the protest procedure will bypass that person and immediately move to the next level.**

If the protest involves the NRD, or a dog or dogs owned or handled by the NRD, the protest will be handled by the Secretary/Treasurer if the protest goes beyond the Local Race Secretary and RRC.

Add the following paragraph

Within the context of WRA procedures and protocols, any reasonable attempt by a club or race officials to comply should be construed to be in compliance by the WRA regional directors and Board of Directors for the purpose of reviewing protests.

Rationale: The line judges, foul judges and field officials are volunteers, and human. It is not fair, nor productive to allow the use of minor technicalities to negate their judgment and experience. In many cases it is a slap in the face and has in recent year years cost the WRA valuable resources in terms of years of experience and willingness to work.

**proposal R-10**

**10 Pass 9 Fail FAIL**

SECTION 5.0 OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL GRADING SYSTEM; subsection 5. 5.2 How Whippets Are Graded; and subsection 5.3 Selection of Post Positions

Original Wording

All adult Whippets must have a point average and starting grade in the first program of any official WRA Race Meet. Whippets that have run before will come into subsequent races with a point average that will dictate the letter grade.

Whippets that are entered for the first time in the Adult Division, are designated as 'FTE' (First Time Entered), and are classed as grade D Whippets in that first race meet, with the following exceptions:

- 1) Any Whippet having a racing grade from the Continental Whippet Alliance (CWA), or the North American Whippet Racing Association (NAWRA), or the National Oval Track Racing Association (NOTRA), or the Canadian Amateur Racing Association (CARA) will retain that grade when FTE in a WRA race meet.
- 2) Any Whippet that the Race Secretary has personal knowledge of, either from having seen it race as a puppy, or in training races, may be started, with the approval of the owner, at any grade other than grade A. Decision must be based upon personal knowledge; information acquired from others may not be used.

From that point on, the Whippet will earn his/her average, and therefore, grade qualification.

To obtain an adult Whippet's point average, the race points from the last three (3) meets are considered. The average is the average of scores from completed meet, in the last three meets. If a Whippet has no completed meets in the last three entered, then its average will be the average of the incomplete meets (where the dog scratched, disqualified or was OFF course).

The letter grading of race entrants is a more simplified grouping which will be used in first adult race program setup, and may be used for trophy presentations or for other general recognition of current achievement level. The letter grade is based upon the numerical point average as follows:

29.0 - 15.0 = Grade A	9.9 - 4.0 = Grade C
14.9 - 10.0 = Grade B	3.9 - 0.0 = Grade D (and FTE)

By being precise, the job of Race Secretary is more objective; the Whippets earn their average, and again, it is the responsibility of the owners to keep accurate records from the races they have attended, so that proper entries are made for the next performance.

Whippets which have no change in their racing average may have their grade reduced by one grade if it meets the following criteria:

- 1) One year has passed since a race meet was completed.

- 2) A Whippet's grade may be reduced by one grade for each year in which it has not finished a complete race meet.
- 3) If a Whippet has not competed in WRA race meets for more than two years then the racing grade from another organization will be used for grading the Whippet.
- 4) The Race Secretary may use his/her judgment in grading Whippets that are veteran racers that have not been in the WRA system for more than two (2) years even if graded in another race system. This down grading must reflect the Whippet's current level of ability.

### **5.3 Selection of Post Positions**

The first complete program is arranged to run Whippets of comparable speed together, based upon their past performances. In the second, third, and fourth programs, racers are placed in races according to points scored in the previous program or programs.

#### **5.3.1 First Program**

The first step in selecting post positions in the first complete race program is to determine the total number of entrants in that program, adult, or puppy). Then group the Whippets in the first adult program according to grade. If there is more than one race in any grade, then the Whippets of that grade will be seeded by alternating, according to point averages, between the races in that grade. If there is more than one race in any grade, then the Whippets of that grade will be divided as evenly as possible between the races, with the higher race containing the highest number of dogs. The whippets will be seeded by alternating, according to point averages, between the races in each grade. For puppies, use random draw. Whenever possible, when two (2) or more Whippets have the same numerical point average, they are arranged in ascending order within the group by the score of each Whippet on its last complete race meet. When this information is not readily available, the Race Secretary may use personal knowledge or a random draw to determine placement.

Whippets that are entered for the first time in the Adult Division, are designated as "FTE," (first time entered), and are classed as grade D Whippets in that first race meet, with the following exceptions:

- 1) Any Whippet having a racing grade from the Continental Whippet Alliance (CWA), or the North American Whippet Racing Association (NAWRA), or the National Oval Track Racing Association (NOTRA), or the Canadian Amateur Racing Association (CARA) will retain that grade when FTE in a WRA race meet.
- 2) Any Whippet that the Race Secretary has personal knowledge of, either from having seen it race as a puppy, or in training races, may be started, with the approval of the owner, at any grade other than grade A. Decision must be based upon personal knowledge. Information acquired from others may not be used.

The actual selection of post positions in the first complete race program is then accomplished by randomly drawing the names of the individual Whippet racers for each race. The first name drawn for each race will get box #1, the second name will get box #2 and so on down through all races in the first complete program. If an owner has two or three entries that carry close averages, they will probably be running in the same race, but that's just the way it is. In the D races, First Time Entered (FTE) Whippets of same ownership should be separated, if possible.

### 5.3.2 Rotation by Points

After the first complete program Whippets are regrouped by race points earned in the preceding programs. This procedure of grouping by similar points continues until the end of the meet. Each Whippet's points are taken from the board or race sheets in sequence from the highest points earned, down to the lowest. Whippets having the same number of points are removed in sequence from the highest race [for purposes of this paragraph, the "highest" race is the last one run in each grade and the lowest is the first race run in each grade.] to the lowest and within any given race by the order of finish. If a dog finishes in last place in the high point race and has the same number of points as the dog that wins the semifeature race, then the winner of the semi-feature will move up to the high point race and the last place finisher will move down to the semi-feature. The racers are then grouped into their race according to the set up chart. Box positions are randomly drawn within each race. The high point adult race should always have six (6) starters, except for the first heat where all dogs are grouped by grade only. When necessary, the semi-feature on down may have less than six (6) starters. These gaps should begin in the second race, and go consecutively upward, and not be intermittent throughout the race program. (Please refer to Figure 2 "Quick Setup Chart").

### Proposed Wording

All adult Whippets must have a point average ~~and starting grade~~ in the first program of any official WRA Race Meet. Whippets that have run before will come into subsequent races with a point average ~~that will dictate the letter grade~~. Whippets that are entered for the first time in the Adult Division, are designated as 'FTE' (First Time Entered), and are classed as grade D Whippets in that first race meet, with the following exceptions:

- 1) Any Whippet having a racing grade from the Continental Whippet Alliance (CWA), or the North American Whippet Racing Association (NAWRA), or the National Oval Track Racing Association (NOTRA), or the Canadian Amateur Racing Association (CARA) will retain that grade when FTE in a WRA race meet.
- 2) Any Whippet that the Race Secretary has personal knowledge of, either from having seen it race as a puppy, or in training races, may be started, with the approval of the owner, at any grade other than grade A. Decision must be based upon personal knowledge; information acquired from others may not be used.

From that point on, the Whippet will earn his/her average, and therefore, grade qualification.

To obtain an adult Whippet's point average, the race points from the last three (3) meets are considered. The average is the average of scores from completed meet, in the last three meets. If a Whippet has no completed meets in the last three entered, then its average will be the average of the incomplete meets (where the dog scratched, disqualified or was OFF course).

The letter grading of race entrants is a more simplified grouping which ~~will be used in first adult race program setup, and~~ may be used for trophy presentations or for other general recognition of current achievement level. The letter grade is based upon the numerical point average as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ll} 29.0 - 15.0 = \text{Grade A} & 9.9 - 4.0 = \text{Grade C} \\ 14.9 - 10.0 = \text{Grade B} & 3.9 - 0.0 = \text{Grade D (and FTE)} \end{array}$$

By being precise, the job of Race Secretary is more objective; the Whippets earn their average, and again, it is the responsibility of the owners to keep accurate records from the races they have attended, so that proper entries are made for the next performance.

Whippets which have no change in their racing average may have their grade reduced by one grade if it meets the following criteria:

- 1) One year has passed since a race meet was completed.
- 2) A Whippet's grade may be reduced by one grade for each year in which it has not finished a complete race meet.
- 3) If a Whippet has not competed in WRA race meets for more than two years then the racing grade from another organization will be used for grading the Whippet.
- 4) The Race Secretary may use his/her judgment in grading Whippets that are veteran racers that have not been in the WRA system for more than two (2) years even if graded in another race system. This down grading must reflect the Whippet's current level of ability.

### **5.3 Selection of Post Positions**

The first complete program is arranged to run Whippets of comparable speed together, based upon their past performances. In the second, third, and fourth programs, racers are placed in races according to points scored in the previous program or programs.

#### **5.3.1 First Program**

The first step in selecting post positions in the first complete race program is to determine the total number of entrants in that program, adult, or puppy). ~~Then group the Whippets in the first adult program according to grade. If there is more than one race in any grade, then the Whippets of that grade will~~

~~be seeded by alternating, according to point averages, between the races in that grade. If there is more than one race in any grade, then the Whippets of that grade will be divided as evenly as possible between the races, with the higher race containing the highest number of dogs. The whippets will be seeded by alternating, according to point averages, between the races in each grade. For puppies, use random draw. Whenever possible, when two (2) or more Whippets have the same numerical point average, they are arranged in ascending order within the group by the score of each Whippet on its last complete race meet. When this information is not readily available, the Race Secretary may use personal knowledge or a random draw to determine placement.~~

~~The actual selection of post positions in the first complete race program is then accomplished by randomly drawing the names of the individual Whippet racers for each race. The first name drawn for each race will get box #1, the second name will get box #2 and so on down through all races in the first complete program. If an owner has two or three entries that carry close averages, they will probably be running in the same race, but that's just the way it is. In the D races, First Time Entered (FTE) Whippets of same ownership should be separated, if possible.~~

For puppies, use a random draw.

Adult whippets shall be seeded in the order of the current point average in the grading guide. All boxes will be filled in accordance with the Quick Set-up Chart (figure 2). The actual selection of post positions in the first complete race program is then accomplished by randomly drawing the names of the individual Whippet racers for each race. The first name drawn for each race will get box #1, the second name will get box #2, and so on down through all races in the first complete program. If Whippets owned by the same owner, or which are kenneled together, are scheduled to be in the same race because of their averages, they shall not be placed in adjacent starting boxes. There will be two high point races in the first program if there are 48 or more adult starters. If two high point races are required, dogs must be seeded alternately, by rating, between the two high point races. Whenever possible, when two (2) or more whippets have the same numerical point average, they are arranged in ascending order within the group by the score of each Whippet on its last complete meet. When this information is not readily available, the Race Secretary may use personal knowledge or a random draw to determine placement.

All First Time Entered (FTE) Whippets should be dispersed through the Grade D adult entrants having 0 – 3.99 average points as the Race Secretary deems appropriate, unless they an average from the CWA, NAWRA, or NOTRA organizations, and then that average will be used.

Whippets that are entered for the first time in the Adult Division, are designated as "FTE," (first time entered), and are classed as grade D Whippets in that first race meet, with the following exceptions:

- 1) Any Whippet having a racing grade from the Continental Whippet Alliance (CWA), or the North American Whippet Racing Association (NAWRA), or the National Oval Track Racing Association (NOTRA), or the Canadian Amateur Racing Association (CARA) will retain that grade when FTE in a WRA race meet.
- 2) Any Whippet that the Race Secretary has personal knowledge of, either from having seen it race as a puppy, or in training races, may be started, with the approval of the owner, at any grade other than grade A. Decision must be based upon personal knowledge. Information acquired from others may not be used.

### 5.3.2 Rotation by Points

After the first complete program Whippets are regrouped by race points earned in the preceding programs. This procedure of grouping by similar points continues until the end of the meet. Each Whippet's points are taken from the board or race sheets in sequence from the highest points earned, down to the lowest. Whippets having the same number of points are removed in sequence from the highest race [for purposes of this paragraph, the "highest" race is the last one run in each grade and the lowest is the first race run in each grade.] to the lowest and within any given race by the order of finish. If a dog finishes in last place in the high point race and has the same number of points as the dog that wins the semifeature race, then the winner of the semi-feature will move up to the high point race and the last place finisher will move down to the semi-feature. The racers are then grouped into their race according to the set up chart. Box positions are randomly drawn within each race. The high point adult race should always have six (6) starters, ~~except for the first heat where all dogs are grouped by grade only~~. When necessary, the semi-feature on down may have less than six (6) starters. These gaps should begin in the second race, and go consecutively upward, and not be intermittent throughout the race program. (Please refer to Figure 2 "Quick Setup Chart").

*Rationale:* To fill races in the first program instead of separating dogs by grade.

Separating dogs by grade in the first program is a manipulation of points which can give unfair advantage to selected dogs in small meets

**SECTION 6.0 RACE TRACK AND EQUIPMENT; subsection 6.1 Race Track.**

Original Wording:

- (a) All WRA meets should be run over a straight, flat, level surface.

For the calendar years 2007 and 2008 only, adult Whippets may race 4 programs at 150 yards if the scheduled race meet is announced as such in the race flyer. All rules and points applicable to races at 200 yards will be applicable to races at 150 yards. If the races are scheduled at 150 yards in the original flyer, the distance may not be changed. The National Race Meet may not be run at 150 yards, but should be run at 200 yards.

- (b) Following this 2 year evaluation period, WRA will automatically include in the Rules Change Proposals for calendar year 2009 a follow-up ballot question. In it WRA member clubs will be asked to vote on whether to make the 150 yard distance a permanent option for calendar year 2009 and beyond.

Proposed Wording:

~~For the calendar years 2007 and 2008 only,~~ Adult Whippets **may race 4 programs at either 150 yards or 200 yards.** ~~if the scheduled race meet is announced as such in the race flyer.~~ All rules and points applicable to races at 200 yards will be applicable to races at 150 yards. ~~If the races are scheduled at 150 yards in the original flyer, the distance may not be changed.~~ The National Race Meet may ~~not~~ be run at 150 yards, but should be run at 200 yards.

No real changes. Strike the 2007 and 2008 clauses and make this a permanent change.

Rationale: After a two year trial, we've seen clubs use the 150 yard distance to an advantage, without the feared loss of 200 yard meets.

**proposal R-12**

**11 Pass 7 Fail FAIL**

SECTION 6.0 RACE TRACK AND EQUIPMENT; subsection 6.1 Race Track.

Original Wording:

- (a) All WRA meets should be run over a straight, flat, level surface.

Adult Whippets may race 4 programs at 150 yards if the scheduled race meet is announced as such in the race flyer. All rules and points applicable to races at 200 yards will be applicable to races at 150 yards. If the races are scheduled at 150 yards in the original flyer, the distance may not be changed. The National Race Meet may not be run at 150 yards, but should be run at 200 yards.

Proposed Wording:

- (a) All WRA meets should be run over a straight, flat, level surface.

Adult Whippets may race 4 programs at **any distance between and inclusive of 150 to 200 yards**, if the scheduled race meet is announced as such in the race flyer, **and posted as such on the WRA website at least thirty (30) days prior to the meet**. All rules and points applicable to races at 200 yards will be applicable to races **at 150 yards different distances**. The National Race Meet may be run at **any distance between and inclusive of 150 to 200 yards**, but should be run at 200 yards.

Rationale: After witnessing the success for the past 2 years of the reduction of distance run (150 yards), it was realized that there were many fields being used that could be better utilized if the distance was somewhat between 150 and 200 yards. The idea of 150 yards was to be able to include fields previously not used due to an inadequate length.

An added advantage is that fields that can not be safely used for 200 yards, may be used at 180, 175, 170 yards... Without having to reduce the length of the track by the current 25%.

**proposal R-13**

**17 Pass 1 Fail PASS**

**SECTION 7 TITLES AND AWARDS**

Original Wording:

The Whippet Racing Association Awards Program has been originated to honor racing Whippets at a level of excellence commensurate with their ability.

At the end of each racing season the NRD will name the Whippet that is Dog of the Year and the Best of Opposite Sex. The Whippet earning the highest number of National Points will be named the Dog of the Year. The Whippet of the opposite sex, of the Dog of the year, with the next highest number of National Points will be be Named Best of Opposite Sex.

Proposed Wording:

The Whippet Racing Association Awards Program has been originated to honor racing Whippets at a level of excellence commensurate with their ability.

~~At the end of each racing season the NRD will name the Whippet that is Dog of the Year and the Best of Opposite Sex. The Whippet earning the highest number of National Points will be named the Dog of the Year. The Whippet of the opposite sex, of the Dog of the year, with the next highest number of National Points will be be Named Best of Opposite Sex.~~

Rationale: Housekeeping. We now honor a "top 10", so a "Dog of the year is no longer chosen by the NRD.

Regional Director Nominations:

East: John Huff Elected

Midwest: Pam LeClair Elected

Southeast: Julian Cox Elected

South: Michelle Wright Elected